

# News

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BLS 03-68

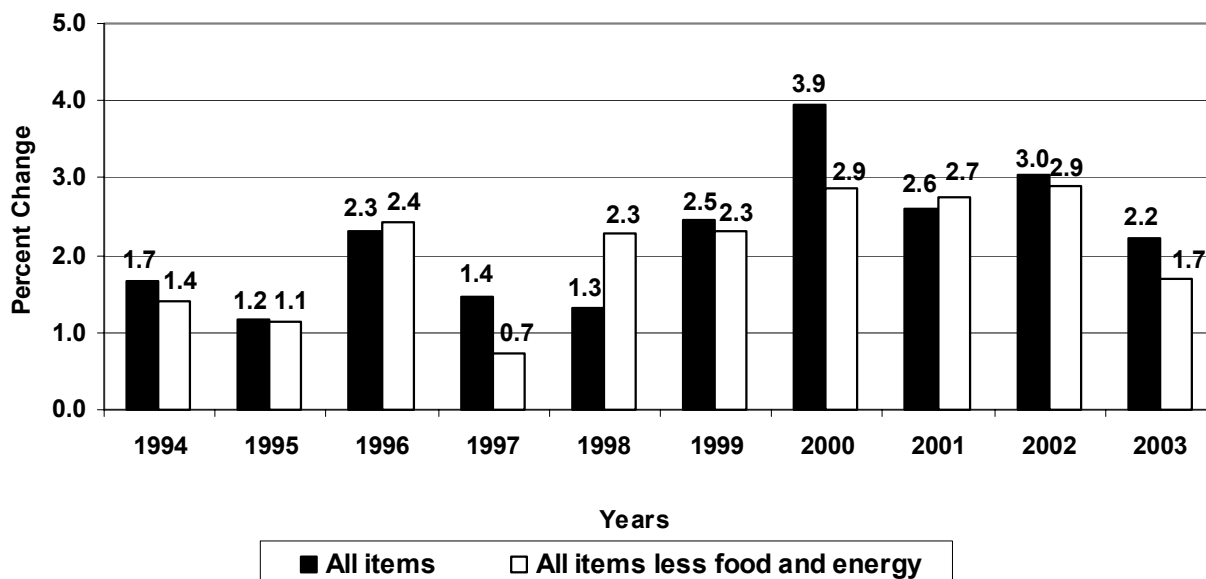
FOR RELEASE:

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

## LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES DECLINE 0.2 PERCENT IN OCTOBER 2003

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that average consumer prices in the greater Los Angeles area declined 0.2 percent from September to October. Acting Regional Commissioner Nancy Treadwell said lower prices for transportation dominated the overall index decrease. During the past 12 months, the all items index rose 2.2 percent, while the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.7 percent. Year to date, overall prices have increased 2.2 percent compared to 3.7 percent for the first ten months of 2002. Local area data are not seasonally adjusted.

**The Greater Los Angeles Area, CPI-U Annual  
Percent Change October 1994 to October 2003**



Transportation prices declined 2.4 percent in October. The category was heavily influenced by gasoline prices which fell 9.1 percent last month, but over the year have increased 20.1 percent. Overall transportation prices averaged 2.8 percent above the level from 12 months ago.

Apparel price tags in the Los Angeles area were marked down an average of 2.8 percent in October, principally from lower women's and girls' apparel prices. Over-the-year, apparel prices have decreased 2.7 percent.

Medical care prices dropped 0.9 percent in October. The last decrease of like size in this expenditure category had not occurred in 32 years (October 1971.) Over the past 12 months, the medical care index increased 3.8 percent.

Influenced by lower prices for long distance telephone services, the education and communication index edged down 0.1 percent since September. From one year ago, the education and communication index has increased 3.8 percent.

Average recreation prices did not change between September and October. During the past 12 months, the recreation index rose 1.9 percent.

Other goods and services prices registered no change for the month, but over the year, prices increased 1.6 percent.

Food and beverages prices rose 0.7 percent for the month. Grocery prices, measured as food at home, advanced 1.7 percent, while prices for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent in October. Prices for alcoholic beverages dropped 3.5 percent for the month. Overall food and beverages prices measured 3.7 percent higher than 12 months ago.

The housing index increased 0.6 percent for the month and was 1.8 percent higher than in October 2002. The shelter index advanced 0.8 percent over the month. Fuels and utilities prices rose 0.2 percent in October. Within fuels and utilities, electricity prices climbed 3.7 percent since September, while utility natural gas service prices fell 6.0 percent. Housing's third sub-category, household furnishings and operations, dipped 0.3 percent for the month. On an annual basis, shelter rose 3.8 percent, while fuels and utilities, and household furnishings and operations declined 6.2 and 5.3 percent, respectively.

In October, the All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, (CPI-U), in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, measured 187.8 on the 1982-84=100 reference base. This indicates a market basket of goods and services costing \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$187.80 in October 2003.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2003	Sep. 2003	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2002	Aug. 2003	Sep. 2003
Expenditure category						
All items .....	186.9	188.2	187.8	2.2	0.5	-0.2
All items (1967=100) .....	552.1	555.9	554.9	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	190.7	191.4	192.8	3.7	1.1	0.7
Food .....	188.9	189.4	191.3	3.8	1.3	1.0
Food at home .....	197.8	198.8	202.2	5.2	2.2	1.7
Food away from home .....	176.0	176.0	176.1	2.0	0.1	0.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	206.1	208.8	201.5	1.4	-2.2	-3.5
Housing .....	191.8	192.8	194.0	1.8	1.1	0.6
Shelter .....	211.6	212.5	214.2	3.8	1.2	0.8
Rent of primary residence (1).....	208.9	210.0	210.9	5.8	1.0	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) .....	222.8	223.8	224.4	4.5	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities .....	175.1	177.4	177.7	-6.2	1.5	0.2
Fuels .....	172.0	174.5	175.2	-8.7	1.9	0.4
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	172.2	174.7	175.5	-8.9	1.9	0.5
Electricity (1).....	186.1	186.2	193.0	-16.6	3.7	3.7
Utility natural gas service (1).....	173.2	181.1	170.3	14.7	-1.7	-6.0
Household furnishings and operations .....	121.5	122.5	122.1	-5.3	0.5	-0.3
Apparel .....	110.2	108.8	105.8	-2.7	-4.0	-2.8
Transportation .....	159.9	162.9	159.0	2.8	-0.6	-2.4
Private transportation .....	154.3	157.3	153.4	3.0	-0.6	-2.5
Motor fuel .....	146.8	160.6	146.0	19.9	-0.5	-9.1
Gasoline (all types) .....	143.8	157.4	143.0	20.1	-0.6	-9.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3).....	142.4	156.2	142.1	21.6	-0.2	-9.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	138.3	151.1	137.1	18.8	-0.9	-9.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3).....	141.4	153.7	139.2	16.7	-1.6	-9.4
Medical care .....	291.2	296.1	293.4	3.8	0.8	-0.9
Recreation (5).....	110.0	110.7	110.7	1.9	0.6	0.0
Education and communication (5).....	108.4	109.4	109.3	3.8	0.8	-0.1
Other goods and services .....	300.2	299.9	300.0	1.6	-0.1	0.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2003	Sep. 2003	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2002	Aug. 2003	Sep. 2003
Commodity and service group						
All items .....	186.9	188.2	187.8	2.2	0.5	-0.2
Commodities .....	153.2	154.6	152.6	1.2	-0.4	-1.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....	130.5	132.2	128.8	-0.4	-1.3	-2.6
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	147.5	151.3	145.5	4.2	-1.4	-3.8
Durables .....	111.3	110.6	109.9	-6.0	-1.3	-0.6
Services .....	216.1	217.3	218.3	2.9	1.0	0.5
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care .....	181.7	182.9	182.6	2.1	0.5	-0.2
All items less shelter .....	176.7	178.2	176.9	1.4	0.1	-0.7
Commodities less food .....	134.2	135.8	132.4	-0.2	-1.3	-2.5
Nondurables .....	170.6	173.0	170.5	3.9	-0.1	-1.4
Nondurables less food .....	152.8	156.5	150.6	4.0	-1.4	-3.8
Services less rent of shelter (2) .....	229.8	231.6	231.5	1.8	0.7	0.0
Services less medical care services .....	209.9	210.9	212.0	2.8	1.0	0.5
Energy .....	155.7	165.3	156.4	6.0	0.4	-5.4
All items less energy .....	190.7	191.3	191.7	2.0	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy .....	191.5	192.1	192.2	1.7	0.4	0.1

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.